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News Release

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Landmark Sculpture by 20th-century Artist Tony Smith Installed on Cleveland Museum of Art's Southeast Lawn

The 13,400-pound sculpture overlooks East Boulevard

CLEVELAND (April 21, 2003) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) installed *Source*, 1967, a large-scale sculpture of geometric forms based on a tetrahedron by influential contemporary artist Tony Smith (American, 1912–1980) on it's Southeast Lawn, Monday, April 14, 2003.

The museum received the sculpture as a gift from the Metropolitan Bank & Trust in 2001 but postponed its installation between the museum's South Terrace and the Fine Arts Garden until the 1916 Building renovation was completed. Now temporarily installed on East Boulevard, the piece will be permanently installed on the museum's North side following the completion of the museum's renovation and building project.

Cleveland Museum of Art Director Katharine Lee Reid says, " The museum is pleased to have this excellent monumental sculpture by one of America's most important artists adorning the lawn of the 1916 Building."

The geometric sculpture weighs approximately 13,400-pounds, made of steel and painted black, is striking at 12 x 29 x 32 feet. It rests upon stainless steel footings surrounded by blue stone.

Tony Smith (American, 1912–1980) trained as an architect, apprenticed with Frank Lloyd Wright and until 1960, maintained an active career teaching design at a number of universities. For the last 20 years of this life, he devoted himself exclusively to sculpture. Despite this relatively brief career, beginning at the age of 52, his simple, geometric forms secured him a place among the major forces of 20th-century sculpture. *Source* is a great example of Smith's work using large-scale modular geometric shapes.

Jeffrey D. Grove, the museum's curator of contemporary art notes " We are pleased to have this multifaceted piece installed in a public space where everyone can enjoy it. This sleek, modern object resonates beautifully with the classic architecture of the 1916 building and shares a meaningful dialogue with other sculptures installed throughout the garden surrounding the lagoon." *Source* cannot be fully appreciated from any one-vantage point, demanding active participation on the part of the observer to move around the piece. In considering it, one sees the dynamism, power and drama implicit in the interlocking forms. Smith felt that achieving total abstraction was impossible and his own works made reference to things and attitudes. For example, his obsession with dark, unitary form springs from memory of a large black stove in a room where he was confined as a sick child. Similar objects in his daily existence remained his formal sources throughout his career.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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